

What is claimed is:

1. A photo printing method for transmitting image information to a plurality of printers through signal paths to print images, comprising:

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an order managing step for managing inputted image information on an order-by-order basis;

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a distributing step for distributing orders to the plurality of printers to be printed; and

an outputting step for outputting image information included in each order distributed, to a selected printer based on an operating status of said selected printer.

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2. A photo printing method as defined in claim 1, wherein:

the distributing step includes assigning priorities to the orders; and

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the outputting step includes outputting the image information in an order of higher priority to one of said printers in a state for accepting printing data.

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3. A photo printing system as defined in claim 1, wherein printing data in corresponding orders is divided in units of frames and successively transmitted, to data storage devices of said printers, amounts of data for the number of frames storable in the data storage devices.

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4. A photo printing system as defined in claim 1, wherein, when

printable image information is image information in one order and the plurality of printers are available for printing, frame image information in that order is transmitted as distributed to the plurality of printers.

5      5. A photo printing system for transmitting image information including photo frame image data to a plurality of printers through signal paths to print images, comprising:

10      a memory for loading image information transmitted from an image input device;

15      a print order managing unit for managing said image information on an order-by-order basis;

20      a distributing unit for applying printer IDs identifying the printers used, as attribute data, to the image information in the respective orders;

25      a printer control unit for checking an operating status of each of said printers; and

30      a data output unit for transmitting, based on a signal from said printer control unit, photo frame image data in an image file to be printed from said memory to one of said printers specified by the attribute data of said image file.

35      6. A photo printing system as defined in claim 5, wherein said distributing unit applies said attribute data to the respective photo frame image data.

7. A photo printing system as defined in claim 6, wherein said distributing unit applies different printer IDs to the photo frame image data belonging to the image file of the same print order.